

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

---

**North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Donald L. Redmann, Warden JRCC**

**Presenting Testimony concerning study, pursuant to Section 5 of 2013  
Senate Bill No. 2015 for the study of the use of structures and property of  
the James River Correctional Center and the State Hospital**

Mr. Chairman and member of the committee, I am Don Redmann, warden at the James River Correctional Center. I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony to this committee and welcome this study of the structures and property.

The James River Correctional Center (JRCC) is a medium security facility that houses male inmates and is part of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The facility opened in June of 1998 and is the result of renovating the ET building which was built in 1936. The gymnasium and forensic unit were also transferred from the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH) as part of the project. The legislature appropriated \$6,318,641 for the project. \$5,658,839 came from a Federal Crime Bill Construction grant, \$36,112 from special funds, and \$623,690 from state general funds. This medium security facility is the first prison built

since the maximum security facility opened in Bismarck in 1885. The women inmates were the first to arrive making JRCC a co-ed facility. The majority of the female inmates were moved to New England in November of 2003 with the higher custody female inmates remaining until August 2004.

The ET building is a six-floor structure with 87,530 square feet. It originally had a maximum designed capacity of 365 inmates, but over the years we have added bunk beds and converted other space to expand our capacity to 398 general population beds. First floor consists of offices for staff and Medical Services. There are five patient rooms and five disciplinary detention cells on this floor as well. Second, third, fourth, and fifth floors have 14,500 square feet and are identical in construction. Each of these floors house 91 inmates. Sixth floor has approximately 5,000 square feet and contains 34 general housing beds and seven detention cells. The fifth and sixth floors opened in July 2001.

The Special Assistance Unit (formerly called the Forensics Unit) houses up to 24 inmates and opened in November 2002. This unit houses inmates who are seriously mentally ill or have other special needs requiring special supervision and management. This building was built in 1979 and is 27,890 square feet in size. Including inmates housed in the Special Assistance Unit, our inmate count currently averages 420.

The gymnasium was built in 1924 and has 15,210 square feet of space used for recreation, library and a card room for inmates.

Rough Rider Industries (RRI) has a building on the grounds with 11,250 square feet. It was built in 1998 and currently provides work for about 50 inmates in upholstery and cut and sew projects. In July of 2010, RRI assumed responsibility for the inmate commissary program which is located in the basement of the NDSH central receiving building. RRI provides commissary services for all DOC&R facilities including the women's prison in New England.

In July 2003 funding for Phase II was appropriated and the food service and laundry operations were transferred from the NDSH to JRCC along with a maintenance building. The dining room building is 29,700 square feet and was built in 1925. The food preparation area was built in 1966 and is 22,250 square feet. Staff plan and prepare over 2400 meals per day for the JRCC and the NDSH.

The 2005 legislature granted funding to bring the education/programming building (part of the kitchen space) in compliance with ADA by approving funding for an elevator.

The laundry building is a two-story structure with 19,600 square feet and was built in 1938. We use the first floor to provide all laundry services for the JRCC

and the NDSH. The second floor would require extensive renovation to comply with current codes, so it is not currently useable for anything but storage. Approximately 45,000 pounds of laundry is serviced each month.

The maintenance building has 14,210 square feet and is in very poor condition. The first floor is utilized for storage and office space, but the remaining parts are unoccupied. The cost to repair this building is prohibitive due to its age and poor condition.

An administration building was transferred to JRCC to create much needed space for administrative services staff and staff training. This building has four levels. Offices were created on the second floor of this building in February of 2002 and were moved to the first floor of the building in March 2005. In September 2005 a fence was connected to the east side of the administrative building and a visiting room was opened on the first floor. This provided a secure visiting room and eliminated the need for inmate visitors to walk through the Special Assistance Unit. At the same time, staff training rooms were established on the second floor of the administrative building. In 2011 the third and fourth floors were used to house up to 50 inmates relocated from MRCC during the flooding in Bismarck but are currently not used. This building is in good structural shape.

The JRCC and NDSH continue to maintain a partnership to reduce costs to the tax payers. We provide laundry and food service for the NDSH and they provide warehouse support and grounds keeping services. Although not directly connected to the JRCC, the DOC&R contracts with the NDSH to provide addiction treatment and related programs to inmates and community referrals from the court. The 60 bed male program is located in what was once called the nurses residence building and is now called Tompkins Rehabilitation Corrections Unit and the 30 bed female unit is located in the GM building.

#### Opportunities:

A master plan for JRCC and campus would be helpful to clearly identify needs, make recommendations, and prioritize improvements for the future. A plan and study has been completed in the past that identified needs and resources at the time, but both are outdated.

We have an established infrastructure, space and capacity that significantly increase the value and provide opportunities for meeting future needs for the State if they can be properly maintained. Nearly all of the buildings are supported by power from the power plant through a series of tunnels. NDSH is responsible for the vast majority of these utilities and tunnels and they can provide a more accurate assessment of their condition.

The laundry and food service operations have reserve capacity that could be put to use if needed in the future.

SB 2136 required that effective August 1, 2007, there must be an agreement between DHS and the DOC&R to provide that the DOC&R shall train, consult, and assist DHS with the provision and enforcement of safety and security procedures at the DHS Civil commitment facilities under NDCC ch. 25-03.3. We continue to meet this directive in support of this program. Training for NDSH is provided as needed at no cost and we have assisted the NDSH on a few occasions to deal with disruptive patients in program

#### Concerns:

I have enclosed an aerial photo to assist you in understanding the JRCC complex. The next page is a drawing providing better detail of the buildings in relationship to our security fence that provides security to the public. The perimeter fence, after a well trained staff, is the most important component of a security system of a prison. The perimeter fence is monitored by fence detection system that alerts our central control of any tampering or climbing. This is essential since we have one perimeter patrol officer for the campus. This system is 15 years old and in critical need of replacement.

There are pedestrian and utility tunnels that cross under our perimeter fence that we secured but these tunnels do cause additional demands and stress on our security.

The central receiving (warehouse) building is located adjacent to the kitchen outside our secure perimeter and is connected to JRCC by a large pedestrian tunnel used to transport supplies to the JRCC and the NDSH. The volume of traffic to move food, laundry and supplies through our secure areas is significant.

The NDSH swimming pool is located within a few feet of the fence and the distance allows for two fences that are not at proper distance from each other. Its location also required us to divert the fence around the pool creating blind spots prohibiting the perimeter patrol officer from seeing the fence unless they exit the vehicle and walk behind the building. This is our most vulnerable area of the perimeter.

Located west of the swimming pool are the chapel and administration buildings. I mention these only because they are connected to the JRCC building by tunnels under our perimeter. The NDSH can provide information on use and function.

In summary, I feel the JRCC will continue to serve the State for many years into the future with the commitment to repair and maintain the functional buildings and infrastructure.

VD

WOLLEN (M)

1/4 CHURCH

2 WOODEN

45 POOL

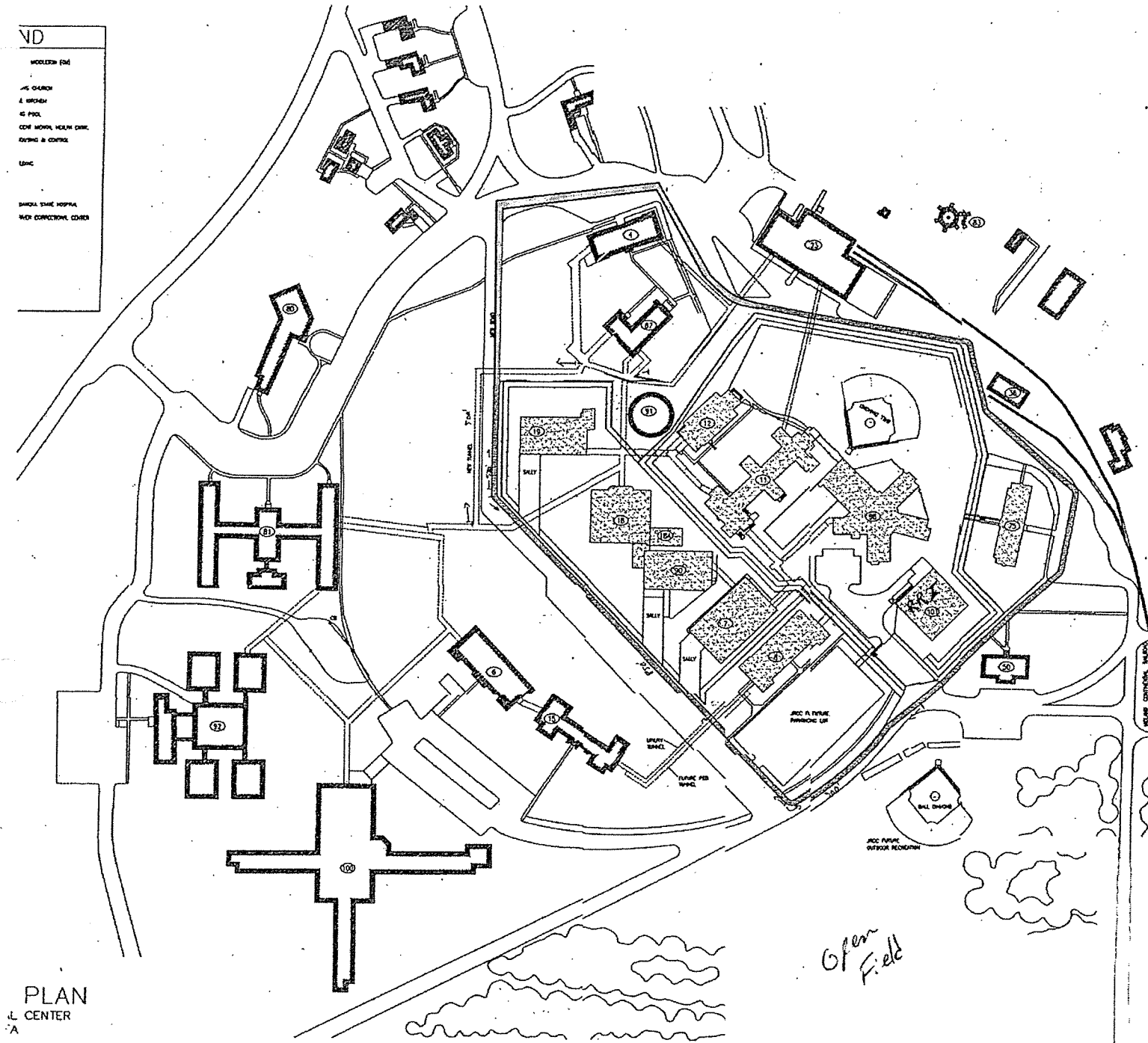
COF MOUNT, MOUNT, DINK

DRIVING & CONTROL

LONG

SHOULD HAVE NOPIA

WATER CONNECTION, COVER



PLAN

IL CENTER  
7A



